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U.S. Continues Secret Talks With Iran

The United States and its Western allies continue to conduct secret talks and cut secret deals with Iran while the Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's terrorist lackeys control the fate of three surviving American hostages—and several Europeans.

We've reported before on the secret tilt toward Iran by the Reagan administration's top policy makers. We have declined to detail the extent and exact nature of the contacts because they are so closely intertwined with the fate of the hostages.

Primarily at Syria's instigation, the Iranian-controlled Moslem terrorists in Lebanon released the Rev. Lawrence Jenco, but there is no indication that they are willing to give up the other three: Associated Press reporter Terry Anderson and David Jacobsen and Thomas Sutherland of the American University in Beirut. Intelligence reports show the hostages are moved frequently to avoid rescue and were taken recently from the Bekaa Valley to Beirut.

Meanwhile, our allies are trying to placate Iran and two other terrorist states—Syria and Libya—by supplying them with arms and making profitable trade deals with them. These backdoor arrangements give Iran, Syria and Libya the wherewithal to support and train terrorists—and provide Iran with the munitions and replacement parts it needs to continue the six-year war with Iraq.

Here are some of the more outrageous weapons deals made by Western European nations with the terrorist states in pursuit of appeasement and

profits:

■ **France.** The state-owned conglomerate Luchaire has secretly shipped hundreds of thousands of artillery shells to Iran. Some transactions have been shielded by arranging them through Luchaire's affiliate, S.E.A., in Turin, Italy.

Paris also has signed secret deals with Libyan dictator Moammar Gadhafi for 128 Otomat shipborne missiles (of joint French-Italian manufacture), Mirage jet fighter-bombers and dozens of Exocet antiship missiles. Exocets wreaked deadly havoc on the British fleet in the Falklands war and could endanger the U.S. Sixth Fleet if it maneuvers in the Gulf of Sidra again.

■ **West Germany.** Perhaps primarily to make travel safer for its citizens, Bonn has agreed to supply Iran with four Type 209 diesel submarines, among other weapons. The carnage these undersea craft could produce in the Persian Gulf oil-shipping lanes can easily be imagined.

Intelligence sources tell us the extent of West Germany's secret deals with Iran has made Lufthansa safer to fly than any other airline—with the possible exception of El Al, which relies on painstaking security measures rather than Israeli appeasement of terrorist-sponsoring governments.

■ **Austria, Greece, Sweden—and Israel.** According to a report in this month's Reader's Digest by senior editor Nathan Adams, these supposedly antiterrorist countries have also put profit above ethical and humane considerations involved in weapons-dealing with countries that encourage terrorism.